ARTICLES TO BE ENQVIred of, by the Churchwardens and Sworn-men, in the first Visitation of the Right Reuerend Father in God, WILLIAM by the permission of God, Bishop of Rochester, in the yeare of our Lord Christ, 1605

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1605.

THE TENOR OF THE *Oath to bee miniſtred to the Church-* Wardens and Sworne-men.

YOu ſhall ſweare by Almightie God, that all affection, fauour, hatred, hope of reward, feare of diſpleaſure or malice ſet aſide, you ſhall vpon due conſideration of the *Articles* contained in this booke (and now giuen to you in charge) make a true and perfect preſentment in writing, of all and euery perſon & perſons dwelling within your pariſh, or elſewhere within the Dioceſſe of *Rocheſter*, as haue committed any offence or fault; or made any default in any of the ſaid Articles, or which are vehemently ſuſpected, or defamed of any ſuch offence, fault or default, wherin you ſhall not preſent any for ill will, malice or hatred contrarie to the trueth, nor for loue, fauour, reward, dread, or any other corrupt affection; conceale or ſpare to preſent any that be offenders, or ſuſpected or defamed in any of theſe cauſes, but ſhall doe vprightly, as men that haue the feare of God before their eyes, deſiring to mantain vertue & to ſuppreſſe vice. So helpe you God in Chriſt Ieſus.

God ſaue the King.

MUSEUM

ARTICLES TO BE enquired of, by the Churchwardens *and Sworne-men, in the first Visitation* of the Right Reuerend Father in God, WILLIAM, by the permission of God, Bishoppe of *Rochester, in the yeare of our Lorae Christ,* 1605.

Constitutions Ecclesiastical.

1. WHether haue you in your Church or Chappell, the booke of constitutions or Canons ecclesiasticall, published by his highnes authoritie vnder the great seale of England, and whether hath your minister read the same or some part thereof, vpon sundayes and holy dayes in the after noone before diuine seruice, according to his Maiesties pleasure in that behalfe, yea or no?

Diuine Seruice.

1 Whether is diuine seruice diligently and distinctly read in your church or Chappell (by your Minister) at morning and euening Prayer, vpon sundayes and Holy dayes, and other dayes appointed, according to the prescript forme of the Booke of Common Prayer, lately explaned and published by his Maiestie, and whether are the Sacraments duely administred, and all thinges else (touching diuine seruice) performed according to the said booke, and no otherwise?

Ministers.

1 whether doth your Minister vsually pray for the Kings

Maiestie, for the Queene, the Prince, and all their royall progenie, with addition of such titles and stile, as are due to his Highnes, and exhort the people to obedience to his Maiesty, and the magistrates vnder him?

2 Whether is your Minister a Preacher licenced, if yea, thē by whome? and how often doth he preach in your parish, and are his Sermons pamefull and charitable, not idle, not wādring from his text, nor personally inuective against any particular partie? If he be no Preacher, doth he then procure sermons to be preached amongst you monethly, by a licenced preacher? and when there is no Sermon, doth hee reade some one of the Homilies allowed?

3 Whether hath your Minister more Benefices then one? if he hath, then at which doth he most abide? & whether doth he maintaine in the Benefice where he doth not reside a Preacher licenced, and preach himselfe euery Saboth, in the place where hee is resident, or in some other Church or chappell neere adioyning?

4 Whether hath your minister obtained his benefice by symony or any corrupt meanes, directly or indirectly, & whether is he reputed or knowne to be an incontinent person, a common drunkard or gamester, or otherwise faultie in any crime punishable by the ecclesiasticall lawes?

5 Whether doth your minister (as you guesse or beleeue) spend his time in the weeke daies at his study, which we wish to be 7. houres in the day, viz. 4. in the forenoon, and 3. in the afternoone) not following his plow, pitching his cartes, nor spending his principall time in worldly busines, which the Apostle willeth to be renounced?

6 Whether doth he vse to ride or go to fayres or markets, there to buy or sell any manner of cattell, or buy any manner of victuals or other prouision for his house, bringing it home on his owne, or his horse backe, in any wallet, sacke, bottle or otherwaies, abasing thereby his calling and profession, and (as much as in him lieth) bringing contempt vpon the ministerie?

7 Whether doe you know or haue heard say, that any who haue heretofore beene admitted into the holy orders of Deacon or Priest, haue afterwardes voluntarily relinquished the same, and vsed himselfe in the course of his life, as a Lay mā?

8 Whether doth your minister vsually vpon Sundayes & holy dayes in the afternoones, catechize the youth in your parrish

rish, doth he vse the times of preambulation appointed? doth hee weare the Surplisse at such times as hee sayth publike prayers, or administreth the Sacramentes, doth he then also weare such an Hoode as is agreeable to his degree, taken in the Vniuersitie: And doth hee in all pointes (without alteration) obserue all the rites and ceremonies in Baptisme, Communion, Matrimonie, Visitation of the sicke, buriall of the dead, and giuing thankes for women after their deliuerance, according to the order prescribed in the booke of Common Prayer?

9 Whether doth he maintaine or defend any popish opinions, or fauour any popish Recusantes on the one side? or is he factious or Schismaticall, or an abettor of Sectaries on the other side? or doth he encourage, moue or perswade any of his parrish, or else where, to affect or embrace any other Religion, or forme of Church gouernement, then that which is now by his Maiestie established within this Realme?

10 Whether doth hee bidde such Holy dayes and fasting dayes, as are by the Booke of Common-Prayer appointed? And doth hee once euery 6. Monethes denounce openly in your parrish, all such persons as do stand excommunicate?

11 Whether doth he vse such decency and comelines in his apparrell (both at home and abroad, riding or going) as by the 78. Canon is inioyned?

12 Whether doth he maintaine and keepe in good and sufficient reparations, all the houses and barnes, with the other buildinges, belonging to his benefice?

Ecclesiasticall Officers.

1 Whether doe you know or haue heard that any person in your parrish, hath paide or promised to pay any summe of money, or other reward directly or indirectly by himselfe or any other, to any Iudge or other officer of the ecclesiasticall Courtes within this Diocesse, for the auoiding of punishmēt for incest, adulterie, fornication, or any other crime punishable in those Courtes, if so, then with whom, when, and for what summe?

2 Whether hath any Chancellor, Archdeacon, Officiall, or any other exercising Ecclesiasticall iurisdiction within this Diocesse, or any Register, Apparator, or other minister belonging to the same Ecclesiasticall courts, exacted, extorted,

or taken any greater fees, then heretofore of late hath been accustomed to be taken? And whether is there a Table of the rate of all fees set vp in their seuerall Courtes or Offices? And whether they or any of them haue taken vpon them the office of Informers, or promoters to the Courtes, or any other way abused themselues in their offices, contrary to the lawes and Canons in that behalfe?

3 Whether is the vsuall number of Apparitors increased, and whether is the countrie any way ouerburdened, wronged or grieued by them, declare by whome, and in what manner?

Curates and Schoolemaisters.

1 Whether is your Curate licensed to serue by the Ordinary of the Diocesse, & whether doth he serue any more Cures then one?

2 Whether is he guiltie or vehemently suspected of any notorious crime or faulte, punishable by the censurers of the Church?

3 Whether doth hee in all pointes (touching the office of his ministery) demeane and behaue himselfe, as is before set downe, and required in the Articles concerning Ministers?

4 Whether is there in your parish, any that doth take vpō him to teach Schollers publikely or priuately, being not licensed by the Ordinary of the Diocesse? and whether doth hee that is licensed to teach, beare himselfe in all thinges, as one that affecteth well the Religion and gouernement of this Church of England, as it is now established, and as is required by the lawes and constitutions of this Realme? And doth he diligently bring his schollers to the Church to heare diuine seruice?

Church and Churchyeard.

1 Whether haue you in your church or Chappell, the great english bible, the booke of common prayer explaned, & all other bookes by lawe appointed and required?

2 Whether haue you in your Church or Chappell, a seemely pulpitt, a decent communion table with meete clothes to couer it; a font of stone set in the old vsuall place, a communiō cuppe of siluer, with a couer, a large surplisse with sleeves, a register booke in parchement for christenings, weddinges

and

and burials: faithfully transcribed out of the olde Register Booke, and safely kept in a strong cofer with three locks prouided for the same, and a poore mans boxe also with 3. lockes? And whether are the x. Commaundements fairely set vp on the East end of your Church or Chappell, and other sentences of Scripture written vpon the walles, so as the Parishioners may reade the same at times conuenient?

3 Whether are your Church or Chappell and the Chauncelles therof mayntained in good and sufficient reparations within and without, and the same cleanly kept, well paued, & decently furnished with seates and pues meete for the parishioners? If not, then by whose default? And is your Churchyard sufficiently fenced with walles, rayles, or pales, to keepe the same from noysance or damage?

Churchwardens.

1 Whether were you the Churchwardens & questmen chosen, by the consent of the minister and parishioners? Haue the Churchwardens before you, giuen vp a iust and true accompt for their time, and deliuered vnto you whatsoeuer monie or other goods belonging to the Church, which was in their handes?

2 Whether doe you take care that none be suffered to preach in your parish but such as are licenced by lawfull authority? and whether haue you prouided a booke for strangers that resort to your Church to preach, causing them to enter their names therein according to the 52. Cannon?

3 Whether do you carefully see that al the parishioners (of age conuenient) doe duely resort to the Church vpon Sundayes and holy dayes, and there (continuing all diuine seruice) behaue themselues reuerently, religiously, & attentiuely? And doe you leuie 12. d. vpon euery one, that (without lawful impediment) is absent, according to the law in that behalfe?

Executors and Administrators.

1 Whether doe you know or haue heard of any within your parrish, that haue presumed to intermeddle with the goodes and chattels of any dead person, not hauing authority from the Ordinarie, eyther by prouing the will of the deceased, or by procuring letters of Administration?

Generall Articles.

1 Whether is there in your parish, or els where to your knowledge (either of the Clergie or of the Laicty) any that do depraue the late sacred synode of this Nation, assembled by his Maiesties authority, affirming the same to haue beene a cõpany of such as did conspire against godly and religious professors of the gospell, and therefore they and their proceedings to be contemned, (or at least not to bee obeyed) and that it was not the true Church of England by representation, & that the decrees therin made & ratified by the kings supreame authority, ought not to bynde the absent, because they gaue not their voices vnto them?

2 Whether is there in your parrish any that doe not come to Church at all, or any that doe but seldome resort thether, (being of the age of 16. yeares and aboue) or any of the sayde age, that doe not receiue the Sacrament of the Lordes supper in their owne parrish three times a yeare at the least, (whereof Easter to be one) or any that doe receiue the same after any other manner then kneeling, or any that refuse to receiue it, vnlesse it be administred by a preacher?

3 Whether doe you know or suspect any in your parrish to be sayers or hearers of Masse, or that doe entertaine Iesuites or Seminarie Priestes, or that doe disswade his Maiesties subiectes from the Religion established, or that doe offer to dispute, conferre and reason with any, to the ende to diuerte them from the same, and to perswade them to popish Religion?

4 Whether among you be there any that are known or suspected to vse sorcerie, witchcraft, charming, or any such lewde deuise and practise, or that take vpon them to dispossesse or cast out the diuell or diuels, or that desire to bee reputed cunning in that kinde, or any that doe fauour them or resort vnto thẽ for helpe and counsel?

5 Whether are there in your parrish any that bee knowne or vehemently suspected, to haue committed incest, adulterie, fornication, or other incontinencie, or any that haue receyued such persons into their houses, or conueyed such away before due penuance performed? or any blasphemer, common drunkard, swearer, bawde, common scowld, common vsurer, makers of seditious libels, or any that haue fought or brawled in the Church or Churchyeard?

6 Whether

6 Whether hath there beene any child borne in your parish, which haue not beene brought in conuenient time into the Church to be baptised?

7 Whether any in your parish that are married, doe liue a sunder, or are there any that haue beene married within the degrees forbidden, or any that haue beene diuorced, that doe still keepe company together, or any man that hath 2. wiues or any woman that hath 2. husbandes liuing, or haue there beene any marryed without banes, or in times prohibited, without speciall licence of the ordinary? or any that haue beene married foorth of the parrish where one of them dwel, or the parentes, or gouerners of one of them.

8 Whether haue you in your parish any persons that doe stand excommunicate, how long haue they so continued, and whether any such excommunicate persons, haue beene by the minister admitted to diuine seruice, or to receiue the blessed sacrament of the Lords body, before they haue beene lawfully and duly restored to the Church?

9 Whether are there in your parish any that do vse to worke vpon sundayes or holydayes, or open their shoppes for sayle of their wares vpon any of these dayes?

10 Whether are there any commō haunters of Innes, Tauernes, tipling houses, or victualing houses, or any that doe vse gaming vpon sundayes and holydayes, or that doe vtter and sell their victuails vpon those dayes in time of diuine seruice.

11 Whether do al parents, maisters and mistresses of families in your parish, cause their children & seruāts to repayre to the Church, euery Sunday and holy day before euening prayer, there to be catechised and instructed by the Minister in the principles of Religion? If any haue beene faultie herein, since the last Conuocation, present their names?

12 Finally you shall present all and euery person, knowne, or vehemently suspected, to be guiltie of any manner of sinne or crime punishable by Ecclesiastical discipline, al deprauers of the religion, and church gouernment, established in this Realme, all spreaders abroad of rumors touching the alteration or toleratiō of religion, and all that doe any way disturbe the good orders and the quietnes of this Church, and the christian congregation, and whatsoeuer fault els though it be not in these articles expressed which in your consciences you shall thinke fit to be reformed, and punished by the power of the Ecclesiasticall magistrate.

FINIS.

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